VZCZCXRO4703
RR RUEHAST RUEHHM RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHPB RUEHPOD RUEHTM
DE RUEHC #8295 3111446
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 061441Z NOV 08
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 6159
INFO ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STATE 118295

SIPDIS

FROM ACTING A/S RENO L. HARNISH TO ESTH HUB ADDIS ABABA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>SENV</u> <u>ENRG</u> <u>BEXP</u> <u>ET</u>

SUBJECT: KUDOS FOR ADDIS ABABA

REF: ADDIS 2292

Kudos to Embassy Addis Ababa for its reporting (Addis Ababa 2292) on the challenges facing the future of the Aluto Langano geothermal plant. This report highlights several important political and economic considerations for capacity building in developing countries looking to invest in renewable energy, including the role of energy security in political and economic stability. The cable also notes the lack of U.S. engagement on renewable energy could translate into lost export opportunities for U.S. businesses to other countries willing to invest in energy ventures in Ethiopia, and has proposed options for potential partnerships to sustain the Aluto Langano geothermal plant. We are working within the USG to respond to your suggestions. We agree with Post that continued engagement in developing geothermal energy in Ethiopia advances USG and OES environmental priorities for renewable energy efforts and builds on successes from the WIREC conference. RICE